Snyder filed under PM adds

5/7/69

Dear Dick,

Time goes so and I get so little work done. I've done no writing for a while and am still behind in the other work. Now we have another and beautiful intrusion: we have a family of wild ducks in residence and they have just hatched out 15 young, presenting me with a new problem: keeping them alive, in spite of mama, who has decided just the place for them is the swimming pool, which they cannot exit. They, saving them and getting them on TV in the hope they would find a welcome home in a children's zoo took the whole day yesterday, their first.

They looked fine on TV. And it took me until 10 p.m. to get them out of the pool, so they wouldn't drown (they can) or overchill. It was so dark then that when I turned the light off mama bedded down there for the night. leaving briefly daylight and having the brood back 15 minutes later. I watched them jump into the pool at her bidding. - have built a contraption by means of which they can get out and did, under compulsion, last night, so that, with any luck, all I'll have to do today is keep from watching and photographing them too much. And take some time this a.m. to find stale bread and get fine grains for them. I knew they could not get out, for they cannot fly for several months and cannot jump up they 8-10 inches for a while. First thing I did was put some scraps of boards in. Once their play got them onto the boards, I put birdseed on them. Most of this got wasted, but they did learn to eat some. Damndest thing to see, this pretty ducklings taking boatrides as the force of the circulator sent the boards sailing. I put a larg hunk of painted plywood in, but they shunned that. Finally, I fixed it as a ramp but they refused to go onto it. Lil or a neighbor's wife had the idea of putting a rung on that. I anchored the rug with a couple of brinck, and they did ascend that.

Your 4/29 letter to John with two attached pages and your letter of 5/2 with enclosures have arrived, as has his 5/3 to you. He sent me the picture of the annotated breechface but instead of the ictures sent him by the archives sent those of the dents he took for you. Before getting this I had asked him for copies of those he got. I'll return them if he wants, but I want to study them, especially before going there. I have not seen the Arch letter. With the high state of official semantics and my longer experience in interpretation, I'd like to see their exact words. Some of what you say I had read from what Frazier's words and pictures really mean, as my letter discloses. The other things we can discuss when you are here.

There are waysof getting around the awkwardness of allegedly without wasting many words, and I think it essential for the uninformed reader to know that all the evidence relating to the weapon and bullets is dubious, for example, the parenthetcial phrase(said to have be n ordered by Oswald but never placed in his possession, with, perhaps, this further addition, never even proved to have been delivered to him. Likewise, it is not necessary to "treat the issue of the no fingerprints fou d on the shells". Merely add in parenthesis, after the first mention of the shells or at a point where it may seem more appropriate, in passans, (magically,magically, found with no fingerprints on them). This loomed important to the lawyers, who engaged in the wildest conjectures about them. I have done work on this and can probably find it for you. They suppressed it. On other things I've got Eisenberg nailed with keeping quiet where an honest man could not.

You merely confirm to me that Thompson cannot be trusted, as I told you, with emphasis. You have to make your own examination. You may see and/or understand what I might not. I first spotted this and reported it, in my own elliptical way, knowing it had to have, in general, the significance you find. I also knew the state of my own knowledge was such that I could better devote time to other of the too-

many things requiring it. When I had a chance I got a duplicate rifle and, as you know, immediately had some rounds disarmed, for my suspicions ran that way. I still have them. I was staying with Fred Newcomb when I dit this. I could not get the buffs in Los Angeles interested. And, I only recently got the weapon back. Had I not carried the ammo with me, I'd not have that. What I did not carry, I did not get back, including the clip. Took more than a year to recapture the rifle.

On Fred, I have just learned you are in touch. Until I see you, please accept my assurance that you should tell him nothing. He is on our side, but he is also a strange kind of coward, is every undependable in many ways, and has made and will make more trouble. Also, he is a sieve. Please tell him nothing and let me know what you did tell him. You'll know why when you are here, can see the evidence for yourself. Do not believe any of his work until you see it checked out for yourself.

On Epstein: if you keep that conclusion, I think it should have a little editing. On the photos you want: there are two ways. I can ask this guy, and that it a heavy doze right off the bat, or we can get them made at cost, magnified twice (or four times) on a fine offset camera in Washington. Let that also wait until you are here. I fear asking Tom for this big dose of work right off the bat. Let him get involved and more interested first. His knowledge of weapons may supplement yours. He may see something new, etc. And some of the printed pictures may be inadequare. The FBI had a way of achieving instantaneous incompetence when it served a purpose. We can also use that. (Your May 1).

What you sent me (may 2)from LeMoyne Snyder, "Homicide Investigation", is perfect the way it is as an appendix ot ~~M~~ POST MORTEM, to go with the pictures of my own I have for 399, save for one think: your annotations, which are otherwide indispensible. Can you please make me an unannoted copy? And we can do that shooting when we do the testing ourselves.

I may not have time to read and correct the typos before going into town with Lil this morning. Hope you can make them out.